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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants: EZUMI, et al.
Serial No.: 10/054,852
Filed: January 25, 2002
For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD, AND HOLLOW SHAPE
MEMBER FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING
Group: 1725
Examiner: L. Edmondson

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 24, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2003, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 24,
2003, in connection with the above-identified application, is noted. In response
thereto, Applicants are canceling the Groups II and III claims (that is, claims 13-19
and 20-24) without prejudice or disclaimer, and in particular without prejudice to the
filing of a Divisional application or applications directed to the subject matter thereof.

Requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 24, 2003, is moot.

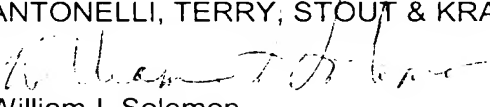
In any event, to complete the record, and to avoid any issue in connection with an incomplete response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2003, Applicants respectfully elect the Group I claims (claims 1-12, drawn to a friction stir welding method) for prosecution on the merits in the present application, this election being made without traverse.

In view of the foregoing, consideration of the Group I claims on the merits in the above-identified application, in due course, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 648-4111X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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